

'U.S. responsible for Israeli attacks'

ABU DHABI (R) — Kuwait's chief government spokesman was quoted Sunday as saying that U.S. backing for Israel encouraged it to attack Arab countries. Abdulaziz Hussein, minister of state for cabinet affairs, also told the United Arab Emirates' semi-official daily Al Itihad that a Gulf tour by British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym was unlikely to take place as long as Britain refused to receive all the members of an Arab League mission. Mr. Pym had to call off the tour this month when Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states made clear he would not be welcome because of Britain's refusal to receive a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on the mission.

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Israeli ministers propose law against meeting with PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli cabinet ministers have proposed a new law that would forbid Israelis to meet members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman suggested the new law in television and radio interviews Sunday and Saturday. They were reacting to news that three Israeli leaders of the council for Israeli-Palestinian peace, a leftist group, met PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Tunis last weekend. Government spokesmen condemned the meeting. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said it proved the leftists were enemies of the state and democracy. The matter was raised at Sunday's cabinet meeting but a spokesman said no decision was made. He said the government would continue its discussion at a future session and a decision on the proposed law would be made then.

U.N. envoy arrives in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (R) — A special United Nations envoy, seeking a political solution to the Afghan problem, arrived in Islamabad Sunday on the second stage of a diplomatic shuttle in the region and said he had made a good start with talks in Tehran. U.N. Undersecretary-General Diego Cordovez told reporters he had some very useful talks with Iranian officials. He said he was satisfied in every respect with the Tehran talks and was "hopeful we will move forward." He gave no detail of the talks. Mr. Cordovez will have several discussions with Pakistani officials from Monday before going to Kabul on Thursday.

Political challenges erupt in W. Germany

BONN (R) — Political challenges preceding West Germany's national elections erupted this weekend with governing parties accusing the opposition of undermining the West's position at the Geneva nuclear arms talks. Both Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher warned the Social Democratic Party (SPD) against isolating West Germany from its main allies by compromising on the arms question. The attacks followed a speech by Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD candidate for chancellor in the March 6 elections.

4 killed by avalanches in Iceland

REYKJAVIK (R) — Two avalanches hurled a cascade of snow and mud down a mountain in northwest Iceland Saturday night, killing four people and sweeping away dozens of cars and houses at the foot of the slopes, police said Sunday. Police chief Stefan Skarphedinnsson reported from the stricken town of Patreksfjord that rescue teams dug out 15 survivors before finding the four bodies. Authorities blamed the tragedy on a sudden thaw that melted the heaviest snowfalls in living memory over most of Iceland.

460 Communist guerrillas surrender in Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — More than 460 Communist guerrillas and their followers surrendered to the Thai government Sunday, military officials said. The Communists laid down their arms before Thai army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek at the northeastern provincial capital of Mukdahan. Gen. Arthit, accepting the surrender, said the "war of liberation" waged for 17 years by the outlawed Peking-backed Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) in northeastern Thailand on the border with Laos was now over, the officials said.

Arafat arrives in S. Yemen PLO leaders to discuss PNC session

ADEN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived from Morocco Sunday to attend a conference of the PLO executive committee on Wednesday.

The executive committee is expected to consider issues to be discussed at a crucial session of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) due to be held in Algeria on Feb. 14.

Mr. Arafat told reporters on his arrival at Aden Airport that he would have talks with South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Muhammad on Palestinian and Middle East issues.

On Saturday long talks between King Hassan of Morocco and Mr. Arafat brought no apparent breakthrough in a dispute over an Arab League mission's visit to London.

Palestinian sources said the projected visit was discussed when the Moroccan monarch received Mr. Arafat and members of a Palestinian delegation for nearly two hours in the Royal Palace.

But they said no announcement about the result of the talks would be made "either now or in the next few days."

The mission, which is promoting an Arab peace plan for the Middle East, has called off its London visit three times because of British objections to the inclusion of a high-ranking PLO delegate as one of its seven members. Among those received by the

King was Mohammed Milhem, a member of the Palestine National Council (parliament) and former mayor of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Halhul.

There was no confirmation that the PLO had accepted a compromise solution agreed to by Britain whereby Mr. Milhem would represent Palestinians on the mission instead of a PLO leader like Farouk Kaddoumi, who took part in its visits to Paris, Moscow and Peking.

Saturday's talks took place during a two-day joint meeting between the committee of seven, set up by the Arab summit in Fez last September to promote the peace plan, and members of the Jerusalem Committee set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to hasten the liberation of the holy city.

The Jerusalem Committee endorsed the eight-point Arab peace plan and undertook to promote it among non-aligned nations.

Sources close to the meeting said the resolutions implied support for Lebanon's negotiations with Israel and also for efforts by Algeria to mediate in the Gulf war.

U.S. protests to Israel for harassing marines

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has formally protested to Israel about incidents of harassment of U.S. peacekeeping troops in Lebanon and Israeli forces, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Sunday.

In a television interview, he said he was concerned about the incidents which had increased

recently. They had been caused in part, Israeli troops using and occupying roads assigned to the multinational peacekeeping forces, he added.

On Thursday, the State Department called on Israel to halt "irresponsible" confrontations between U.S. marines and the Israelis.

PNC meeting may not reach consensus, says PLO aide

BEIRUT (R) — A crucial session next month of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) is likely to break with tradition and fail to reach a consensus, according to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Beirut.

In a television interview recorded Saturday, Shafiq Al Hout said the council, which has so far worked by consensus, would probably be split into a ruling majority and an opposition.

But he said such a "democratic split" was preferable to what he called a "paralyzing consensus."

The council is due to meet in

Algiers on Feb. 14 for its first session since the PLO leadership and thousands of fighters were forced out of Beirut by last summer's Israeli invasion.

Supporters and critics of PLO chief Yasser Arafat have been deeply divided over his proposals for a peaceful end to the Middle East dispute and his rapprochement with Jordan.

Mr. Hout said: "We managed in past years to come out with some sort of national consensus in our resolutions. But this time I wonder if we can come out with a consensus."

The council, which last met in



The cars are caught in Sunday's rain floods through Amman roads which causes traffic jams (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allam).

Snow hits hilly areas of Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rains and snow fell Sunday in the hilly areas of Amman and the weather bureau said it was the result of the movement to the east of an air-mass which affected the country

last week. The bureau said the present conditions will prevail until Tuesday when the air-mass would have completely moved away to the east.

The present condition, the bureau said, were due to cold winds caused by the movement of the air-mass.

Habib in Israel amid differences between Washington, Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returned to Israel Sunday night amid signs of deep differences between Washington and Israel over negotiations with Lebanon.

An Israeli official said Mr. Habib's lengthy discussions with Israeli ministers last week made no progress. Briefing journalists after an Israeli cabinet meeting, the official suggested the U.S. was taking a tough stand to impress the Arab World and draw Jordan into Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Habib, who returned after weekend talks in Beirut, Cairo and Riyadh, was Sunday night meeting Prime Minister Menachem Begin before report-

ing that he had been in Israel for a week. The official said the U.S. was not giving Lebanese President Amin Gemayel enough backing to conclude an agreement with Israel. Israeli negotiators were finding it less of a problem persuading Lebanon than the Americans, he added.

One of the main sticking points is Israel's demand that it maintain three early warning stations in South Lebanon to ensure that

Palestinian commandos do not return to former strongholds there.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected the idea that U.S. experts should man the stations.

On Sunday Mr. Ben Meir said Israel was sticking to this demand. He called it a minimum condition for an Israeli withdrawal and in no way an infringement on Lebanese sovereignty.

Asked what would happen if the Syrians made the same demand for withdrawing their 35,000 troops from Lebanon, Mr. Ben Meir said Israel had answered this point in talks with Mr. Habib.

Cosmos may crash down in ocean

WASHINGTON (R) — A radioactive Soviet spy satellite picked up speed as it hurtled towards earth Sunday, seemingly destined to come down in an ocean, U.S. officials said.

Cosmos 1402 was expected to emerge from space sometime between 2105 GMT Sunday and 0051 GMT Monday, a Pentagon spokesman said.

U.S. officials were predicting that the crippled satellite would probably crash down over water. The Soviet Union said in a statement late last week that Cosmos 1402 would re-enter the earth's atmosphere over the Arabian sea and would pose no radiation danger.

The U.S. officials also said the odds were that the main section of the craft, which could weigh as much as 8,000 pounds (3,630 kilograms), would crash into the ocean and pose no threat.

Israelis step up patrol near Beirut

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops have stepped up patrols on Beirut's southeastern fringe following Palestinian commando attacks but they are under strict orders to avoid confrontation with U.S. peacekeeping forces, the army said Sunday. The road, which runs past former Palestinian strongholds east of Beirut Airport, is a major traffic route for Israeli units and a military spokesman said securing it was vital. Military sources here said commando fleeing Israeli troops had escaped into West Beirut through areas controlled by the multinational force.

Hussein briefs Qaboos on Jordanian efforts

MUSCAT (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday briefed Sultan Qaboos of Oman on Jordan's efforts on the Arab and international levels and the joint Arab endeavours for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos met at the Omani city of Salalah on Sunday after King Hussein's arrival there Sunday in the course of a tour of Arab Gulf states.

The King also briefed Sultan Qaboos on the progress of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue "which is aimed at saving Arab land and liberating the Arab kinmen in the occupied Arab territories." They also reviewed Middle East developments and exchanged views on current Arab affairs. Also discussed were means of further bolstering Omani-Jordanian relations.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Jordan's ambassador to Oman.

On the Omani side, it was

attended by senior aides to Sultan Qaboos, cabinet members and Omani ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Sa'id.

The King and his accompanying delegation which also includes his son Prince Faisal went to Oman from Doha following talks with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani on Arab affairs and Middle East developments.

King Hussein earlier visited Kuwait and Bahrain where he briefed their leaders on the outcome of his visits to Paris, Moscow and Peking at the head of an Arab League seven-member delegation to explain an Arab peace plan adopted at the Fez Arab summit in September. He also briefed them on his recent talks with President Reagan and discussed current initiatives for establishing peace.

On Sunday evening Sultan Qaboos hosted a dinner in honour of the King at the Royal Palace in Salalah. The dinner was attended by members of the Jordanian delegation and a number of Omani senior officials.

Partial pullback: A beginning for withdrawal in Habib's view

By Paul Eedle
Reuter

BEIRUT — U.S. envoy Philip Habib is trying to speed up the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon by proposing an immediate, partial pullback of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops, reports from several sources indicate.

His plan seems to be aimed at side-stepping endless wrangles at the current Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks.

The talks took three months to set up, two more weeks to agree on an agenda, and are now bogged down in a dispute over who should man surveillance stations in South Lebanon to ensure that Palestinian commandos do not return to the area. They resume in Khalde, south of Beirut, Monday.

Lebanese government sources said Mr. Habib had put his new plan to both Israel and Lebanon in the past week.

The Lebanese told him they would agree on condition the plan was part of a wider scheme guaranteeing the total withdrawal of foreign forces. Both Lebanon and the United States were now waiting for the results of an Israeli cabinet which was expected to discuss the plan, the sources added.

Visits to Egypt, S. Arabia

A Cairo newspaper, Al Akhbar, said Sunday Mr. Habib was hoping the partial pullbacks would start by mid-February. It said his current visits to Egypt and Saudi Arabia were to gain the approval of Arab leaders for the plan.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Washington was first reported to be proposing limited withdrawals a month ago, when U.S. envoys were facing great difficulty in organising direct Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks.

The reliable Beirut newspaper Al Nahar, whose publisher is the official coordinator of the Lebanese government's efforts over the withdrawal of foreign forces, reported then that under the plan the Israelis, Syrians and Palestinians would withdraw from an area of the mountains near Beirut.

The Israeli army, which invaded Lebanon in June last year to strike at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commandos, would move back from a section of the mountains to the coastal town of Damour, 10 kilometres south of Beirut.

At the same time Syrian and Palestinian forces would pull back to the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

The Lebanese government intends to re-establish its authority in areas vacated by foreign forces by sending in the Lebanese army, backed by units from the multinational force now in Beirut or from the U.N. troops that have been in South Lebanon since 1978.

Disagreements at talks

Sources close to the Lebanese delegation say the main point of disagreement likely to come up when the talks resume Monday is the issue of surveillance stations in South Lebanon. Israel demands that Israeli troops be involved in manning the stations.

The sources said the Lebanese had rejected this and said the stations would have to be supervised by international troops of some description. They left open the possibility that these troops would be American, like those manning similar early-warning stations in the Sinai desert.

Israel Radio reported that Mr. Habib had told Israeli leaders their demand was unacceptable to the Lebanese and would not be supported by the United States.

Independent experts in Israel suspect that the main purpose of the stations would be to keep watch on Syrian movements. If the United States agreed to Israeli experts manning the stations, this could make it more difficult to gain Syria's cooperation over the withdrawal of its troops.

Syria has already indicated it may not pull its men out if it is not satisfied with the terms of an Israeli withdrawal.

HOME NEWS

N. Yemen seeks Jordanian help in housing affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemen's Minister of Municipal and Housing Affairs Mohammad Jad'an said here Sunday that his country intends to establish a housing corporation, and wishes to benefit from Jordan's experience in housing affairs.

Mr. Jad'an, who is on official visit to Jordan, was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani and Housing Corporation Director Hamdullah Al Nabulsi.

Mr. Momani reiterated Jordan's readiness to offer North Yemen expertise in housing and municipal affairs. This was echoed by Mr. Nabulsi, who said that the

Jordanian Housing Corporation can offer training to North Yemeni personnel in housing affairs.

At the meeting Mr. Nabulsi briefed the visitor on the Housing Corporation's projects which he said, constitute 25 per cent of Jordan's total housing projects.

Mr. Nabulsi also spoke about the corporation's development, its regulations and the major projects

implemented in Jordan. The Housing Corporation has so far executed 60 projects, each comprising 13,800 housing units in various parts of the country, and aims in the future to build such units at a rate of 4,000 a year. Mr. Nabulsi said. He added that his corporation had spent JD 97 million in building houses over the past 10 years.

Following the meeting, which was held at the Housing Corporation, Mr. Nabulsi accompanied Mr. Jad'an and his delegation on a visit to the Abu Nuseir Housing Project, currently under construction, the Housing Bank, and the Cities and Villages Development Bank where they were briefed by officials on their various activities and services.



Jordanian officials, headed by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Momani (third from left), Sunday confer with a visiting North Yemeni delegation (Petra photo)

Jerusalem Committee urges measures to counteract Israeli settlement plans

MOROCCO (Petra) — The Arab League Jerusalem Committee, after its joint meetings with the Arab League seven-member committee in Morocco Saturday, called on all Arab and Islamic countries to formulate an urgent plan to counteract the extension of Israeli settlements in Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian territories.

The final communique, issued after King Hassan of Morocco and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had addressed the meetings, called on Third World countries, particularly members of the Non-

Aligned Movement, to take every precaution to prevent Zionist influences from infiltrating them.

The statement also appealed to Islamic states to make haste in implementing the committee's recommendations calling for the establishment of national fund raising committees to raise the funds necessary to oppose Israeli settlement plans. The communique also called for further publicity to expose the "barbaric Zionist massacre" of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians at Sabra and Shatila.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NCC to debate draft traffic law

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) Monday resumes discussion of the draft traffic law. The NCC session, presided over by NCC President Suleiman Arar, will also consider several other draft laws in addition to hearing the government's reply to a number of NCC proposals submitted in a previous session.

Irbid to have major hospital

IRBID (Petra) — A 120-dunum tract of land has been assigned for constructing a fully integrated hospital in Irbid Governorate at a cost of JD 15 million, according to Princess Basma Hospital Director Abdul Hafez Al Momani. Mr. Hafez said that the 500-bed hospital will be built as soon as the Ministry of Health completes its designs now being drawn up. Adjoining the hospital there will be a nursing college, a paramedical institute and a nurses residential quarter. Dr. Momani added.

Ajloun to build industrial estate

AJLOUN (Petra) — Ajloun Municipality has purchased 21 dunums of land to establish an industrial estate. According to Ajloun District Governor Abdul Halim Awwad, the estate will be used by 30 craftsmen and several light industries. He said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is currently drawing up designs for the project which is expected to be implemented this year.

College boarding facilities to be studied

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has formed a special committee to conduct a study of accommodation facilities at community colleges and secondary schools in Jordan. The committee, chaired by the minister, Dr. Sa'id Al Tal, also comprises directors of community colleges in Amman and Salt. The committee which will study the cost of having boarding facilities, is expected to submit a report to the ministry in March.

Cattle inoculation launched in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Department of Agriculture in Zarqa Governorate has launched an inoculation campaign to protect cows against foot-and-mouth disease. Altogether 3,500 heads of cattle, including 500 at Al Duleil Agricultural Station, will be inoculated, the department said in a statement issued Sunday.

Zahar to get Islamic centre

IRBID (Petra) — The council of the Islamic Organisation has decided to build an Islamic cultural centre at the town of Zahar in Irbid Governorate. The centre is scheduled to be open to the public in the coming month.

Loan to finance Ruseifa complex

ZARQA (Petra) — Ruseifa Municipality has awarded a tender to a local firm for the construction of a complex of government departments in Zarqa at the cost of JD 388,000. The project will be financed by a loan from the Cities and Villages Development Bank, according to Mayor Mohammad Al Fares. He said that the project will be implemented within 24 months.

Al Fares: Streets to be cleaned up

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality has prepared plans for improving the state of the streets in Ruseifa, according to Mayor Mohammad Al Fares. Mr. Fares said Saturday the member of cleaners will be increased from 150 to 200, while garbage trucks will be doubled and rubbish bins installed in the streets. Mr. Fares was speaking at the end of a meeting held Sunday at the Municipality to review measures for improving public services, health and sanitary conditions in the town.

Soviet Union offers 25 scholarships to Jordanian students



Acting Prime Minister and Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (left) Sunday confers with a delegation representing the Soviet society for friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — The Soviet Union will offer Jordanian students 25 scholarships to study at Soviet higher institutes and universities, in accordance with an agreement signed here Sunday.

The agreement was signed by Alexei Sakonov, head of a visiting delegation representing the Soviet societies of friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries, and the Jordanian chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, Dr. Rifat Odeh.

Under the agreement, which followed detailed talks between the two sides, Soviet institutes will offer three to five seats for Jordanian post-graduate students, who had studied in the Soviet Union in addition to three others for students of medicine. The scholarships are to be granted upon recommendations by the

Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society in Amman.

The agreement provides for a visit to Jordan by a delegation from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan in exchange for a visit by a Jordanian delegation to the Soviet Union. It also underlined the importance of further bolstering ties of friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Earlier Sunday, the Soviet delegation called on Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh to review ties of friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

The two sides stressed the importance of exchanging visits by officials from the two countries and Mr. Abu Odeh praised the existing ties of between Jordan and the Soviet Union. The meeting was attended by Dr. Odeh.

Zaben leaves for talks in Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben left for Helsinki Sunday for a week-long visit to Finland. Dr. Zaben, who heads an official five-member delegation, will hold talks with Finnish government officials on cooperation between telecommunications corporations in Finland and Jordan.

Dr. Zaben, who is making the visit in response to an official invitation, is the board chairman of Telecommunications Corporation (TCC). TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail also is a member of the delegation.

Riyadh conference studies U.N. projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference, organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which ended in Riyadh Thursday, discussed future priorities in U.N. sponsored development projects being implemented in the Arab World, according to the director general of the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM), Dr. Zafar Al Sawwaf.

Dr. Sawwaf, who returned to Amman from Riyadh Saturday said that most delegates stressed the need to give priority to projects concentrating on agriculture and industry, as well as energy resources, transportation and communications.

Dr. Sawwaf said that he submitted a report to the conference on AOSM activities and objectives.

Dr. Sawwaf also submitted a proposal for cooperation between the AOSM and the UNDP in standardisation and measurement, training and the exchange of technical terms in these fields.

While in Riyadh, Dr. Sawwaf said he held talks with Saudi Arab officials on cooperation between the AOSM and Saudi Arabia in the field of specifications and measurements.

Ayyoub to inaugurate plastic containers plant

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub will inaugurate a factory for manufacturing plastic containers for the Jordan Dairy Company (JDC) in Zarqa Tuesday. The new JD 850,000 factory will produce 40 million plastic cartons annually, of which 15 million will be exported to other Arab states, a company spokesman said. The company was established by the government in 1968 with an initial capital of JD 750,000, and it started production in the following year.

Last year, the company, which produces milk, yoghurt, cheese and icecream, sold products worth JD 877,000, registering an increase of JD 67,000 over 1981 sales. The spokesman, added the company now employs 134 workers.

Tal receives invitation to pay visit to Algeria

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Dr. Sa'id Al Tal received in his office Sunday Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Al Abidi. Mr. Abidi extended to Dr. Tal an invitation from Algerian minister of education and scientific research to visit Algeria, which Dr. Tal accepted.

The Ministry of Education was also notified by a memorandum from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) regional office that the regional conference of Arab ministers of education, and ministers responsible for economic planning would be held this year.

The memorandum also asked the Ministry of Education to prepare a report on its policies, plans and aspirations to be included in the main working paper of the conference.

Dr. Tal has set up a committee comprising the directors of planning, community colleges, education and audio-visual aids to prepare the report before Feb. 10.

Khartoum seminar discusses Arab research

IRBID (J.T.) — A conference of the Union of Arab Universities (UAAU) recently held in Khartoum called for the establishment of a fund to finance research projects in Arab countries, according to Dr. Ahmad Salem, dean of scientific research at Yarmouk University.

He said that participants in the four-day conference also stressed the importance of cooperation among Arab universities in research and scientific studies.

Taking part in the conference were representatives from 20 Arab universities including Bethlehem University in the West Bank, which was represented by its President, Michael Sabbah.

Jordan plans intensified statistics training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government plans to hold training courses in statistics to ensure a ready supply of qualified statisticians to Arab governments and private institutions. Statistics Department Director-General Burhan Shreideh said here Sunday.

He was speaking at the conclusion of a training course in the use of computers and statistics-related subjects held in Amman, in cooperation with the Baghdad-based Arab Institute of Statistics and Scientific Training.

Participants from eight Arab states who attended the course heard lectures on the general use of computers, data gathering, programming, filing, systems analysis, planning and other related topics.

At the end of the final session Sunday, Dr. Shreideh distributed diplomas to the participants who came from Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, North Yemen, South Yemen, Libya, Palestine and Jordan.



Statistics Department Director-General Burhan Shreideh hands over a diploma to one of the participants who attended a specialised training course in computers, which ended Sunday (Petra photo)

UNRWA expects \$44m deficit budget for '83

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) has indicated that the agency's budget for 1983 would be about \$216 million, reflecting a reduction of more than \$35 million from the budget submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in June 1983.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck, who announced the budget at last week's session of the advisory commission of the agency, said that the agency expects a deficit of \$44 million in 1983.

The advisory commission met in Vienna Jan. 17 to hear a report from the commissioner-general on Lebanon emergency operations and the financial position of UNRWA. Commission members are Jordan, Belgium, Egypt, France, Japan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. Chairman of the meeting was Albert Thabault, the French ambassador.

Financial position

Mr. Rydbeck reported that UNRWA's final revised budget for 1982 was \$208.5 million against an income of \$182 million. The deficit was absorbed by deferring non-recurrent expenses and a \$20 million draw-down in the agency's cash balances. The lower 1983 budget, he said, can be attributed to the elimination of the general ration programme, except in Lebanon, in the last quarter of 1982 and other cost control actions begun last year, including the elimination of nearly 100 posts.

The agency expects a deficit of \$44 million in 1983, said Mr. Rydbeck. But he warned that the deferment of expenditure for staff costs and non-recurrent costs (including maintenance of UNRWA installations) cannot continue indefinitely and that the current cash position cannot be allowed to deteriorate further. The agency, therefore, needs to raise an additional \$38 million for its regular budget and \$4.75 million for the Lebanon emergency programme.

Lebanon operations

Despite daily difficulties, UNRWA operations in Lebanon are working fairly routinely and smoothly, Mr. Rydbeck told the advisory commission. At the end of December, UNRWA was providing material aid and food to over 185,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon under the emergency programme, Mr. Rydbeck said.

The following is a summary of Mr. Rydbeck's report to the commission.

Eighty-two out of 85 schools in Lebanon are back to almost normal operation. This includes 45 classes operating on a triple-shift basis in large tents in Ain Al Hilweh camp, Sidon. The Palestine refugee school population in Lebanon has risen to over 31,000 against the last year's enrolment of 35,300; and 1,005 displaced children from Lebanon are attending UNRWA schools in the Damascus area of Syria.

Health centres have been repaired and are in full operation. There is a heavier demand on out-patient services than before June 1982, especially in the Sidon and Tyre areas, as health services formerly offered by the Palestine Red Crescent are no longer functioning. In response to this, five additional medical officer posts and several support posts have been established.

Aid delivered

Between June and mid-November, UNRWA distributed 5,179 tons of flour; 644 tons of rice; 504 tons of sugar; 157 tons of skim milk; over 1,250,000 tins of corned beef, sardines, tomato paste, jam and olives; 124,000 bars of soap; 100,000 blankets; 11,000 towels; 3,000 gas cookers; 6,000 primus stoves; 6,000 kitchen kits; 3,000 food boxes; and 98,000 garbage bags.

The agency has paid out \$1.3 million in cash or in building materials to refugees for the repair and reconstruction of their homes and expects to pay out another \$5.3 million in the next few months. (These figures are for camp residents only.)

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The ambassador of India and Mrs. P.L. Santoshi cordially invite all Indian nationals residing in Jordan with their families and children, to the 34th Republic Day celebration to be held on Wednesday Jan. 26, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. at their residence in Jabal Amman.

Meeting discusses letter of credit procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the procedures for establishing letters of credit was held in Amman Saturday. It intended to act as a forum for an exchange of views among bankers and representatives from financial institutions on amendments that the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) intends to introduce in the field of credit procedures, according to Professor Bernard Weibel, a leading banker who took part in the seminar. Speaking before his departure from Amman, Professor Weibel praised the Jordanian banks and financial institutions for their constructive participation in the seminar.

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NO. 1 IN SCOTLAND

By Michael Blair
Rover

For \$2, Latin America offers best tourist bargain

QUITO — For an outlay of \$2, a 12-hour rail journey from Quito to Guayaquil offers extinct volcanoes, hair-raising mountain turns and one of the best tourist bargains in Latin America.

Plunging thousands of metres (feet) from the barren mountain deserts that surround the capital city of Quito to the tropical jungles of the coast, the railway carries travellers through villages and countryside unchanged for centuries.

But time is catching up with this spectacular relic from another age and a government programme to improve it has fallen behind schedule due to Ecuador's economic recession.

An engineering triumph when it was first built in 1908, the 447-kilometre (279-mile) single-track railway now shows its age and many travellers prefer to make the trip from Quito to the country's commercial centre by plane.

One railway official said, "the

rails in general have very little strength left in them and most of the joints are in bad shape. The timetables of the journey are not guaranteed and trains are not prohibited from going at more than 50 km (30 miles) per hour."

But despite its age and inefficiencies, the railway provides one of the world's most unusual rail trips and its 20 carriages carried two million passengers in 1981. In 1980 the government decided to preserve the service for

its tourist value.

The train moves in fits and starts along the way to allow trains moving in the opposite direction to squeeze past on the single-track main line.

Setting off at 6 a.m. from Quito, an ancient inca city set in a hollow at the foot of a volcano, the train climbs up through Ecuador's central valley, zig-zagging past the extinct snow-covered volcanoes that reach up over 5,000 metres

(16,400 feet) high dominating the highlands.

The front seats in the train are reserved for foreign tourists and Ecuadorians sit on the roof along with the luggage or sit at the back squeezed in among live hens, sacks of corn and vegetables.

The train climbs to 3,600 metres (11,800 feet) through villages and countryside little changed from 100 years ago where the mainly Indian people dress in ponchos and bowler-type

hats and carry babies strapped to their backs.

The fall as the train plunges to sea level is fast and precipitous. Looking out of the window one gets the impression one is on a plane rather than a train as the train appears almost to dive downhill at angles not usually associated with a railway.

At one point the train has to back down an innovative piece of engineering in the form of a zig-

zag track to get to the bottom of a cliff known as Devil's nose.

In contrast to the squat stone buildings in the uplands, houses on the coastal plains are made of wood and bamboo with no glass in the windows.

During the journey, the train stops to allow passengers to take breakfast and lunch in village cafes. The more adventurous might choose to buy fried bananas, corn on the cob and pastries from street vendors or taste a

portion of the numerous whole roast pigs cooking in villages along the route and served up to travellers.

As well as dashing off into the unspoiled wilds of traditional Ecuador, the railway track sometimes runs parallel to and frequently crosses the modern Panamerican highway, which links Ecuador with Colombia in the north and Peru and Chile in the south.

The journey ends at Duran, across the River Guaya from Guayaquil, the commercial centre of Ecuador.

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No peace without PLO

ONLY Begin's Israel thinks there will be peace without the Palestinians, namely the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Everybody else, including the United States this time, feels no peace effort can succeed if the PLO leadership will not lend weight to it.

Chairman Arafat knows this. So do most of his colleagues in the organisation and in the Palestinian camp. The Arafat peace plan for the Middle East which was formulated and adopted by Arafat leaders at Fez, Morocco last September suits them perfectly. So would the envisaged Franco-Egyptian initiative in the United Nations and also the Soviet plan. United States President Reagan's proposals for an Arab-Israeli settlement of the Palestine problem go a long way towards addressing Palestinian rights, but stop short of inviting the PLO leadership to play its full role in the search for an honourable solution to their problem.

In short, the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people are now being asked by Mr. Reagan to sit and watch

while others, no matter how close to them, negotiate on their behalf the obstacles to regaining their basic rights in Palestine. Being the intelligent, courageous and responsible leaders they are, Mr. Arafat and his colleagues are pondering the difficult American question, having fully understood what its basic premise and implications are.

It may be difficult to judge which way the answer of the Palestine National Council (which is scheduled to meet in Algeria next month) will go. But there is one thing that is very clear now: If it is believed that President Reagan's Sept. 1 initiative is really the only viable option for Middle East peace at this stage, then every effort must be exerted to convince the PLO that current American attempts to find a settlement are not only sincere but also will produce tangible results. For reasons best known and understood by most of us, that will be difficult unless Washington succeeds in removing forcibly certain Israeli obstacles to peace first.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hussein's tour promises hopes of greater Arab unity

His Majesty King Hussein and the accompanying Jordanian delegation's second tour of Arab states is a new step forward in Jordan's effort to fuel the occupied Arab territories and their people.

Taking into account present international realities, it is natural that the King is holding with the leaders of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman should consider ways of establishing genuine peace in the Middle East. The potential for peace will also be considered by the leaders, while the need to build up a strong Arab position capable of dealing with the situation will also be on the agenda.

The attainment of a unified Arab effort that regards the rescue of both occupied soil and its residents as a top priority is definitely an indispensable prerequisite for the coming stage of intensified work. It should be the major objective for all Arabs in the same way that it is for Jordan, which is working hard to rally the Arab World and urging its Arab brothers to honour their national commitment to the Palestinians.

Moreover, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian drive,

which has already accomplished a great deal in setting up this coordination, should be backed to the hilt. The crystallisation of an agreed future relationship between the two peoples is a step forward that reflects a deep sense of responsibility towards the concept of pan Arabism by both sides.

Obtaining sufficient support for this joint effort is now a national duty which must be pursued without hesitation. The time factor too is also an essential component of the present effort, and this fact must also be recognised as of importance by the Arabs. Israel is doing everything possible to capitalise on this factor, especially in implementing its settlement and annexationist plans. Thus it hopes quickly to create a new reality which can only undermine all hopes for a just and durable peace in the region.

In the light of these facts, the King's present tour must be seen as a significant step aimed at boosting the peace process' sagging momentum. The Arab Nation too must now respond to this new momentum.

Al Dustour: American double standards again surface in Lebanon

The U.S. administration realised that it was inadequate gesture for only itself to implement economic sanctions against Poland in retaliation for the Polish government's internal policy of imposing a state of military rule in Poland. Therefore the Americans urged all its Atlantic alliance partners to follow its example to preserve human rights in Poland.

But the same issue is regarded quite differently when Israeli interests are at stake. Israel goes on confiscating Arab land, yet the only American response to such a violation of international laws and human rights is to increase its aid to Israel. Thus Israel is able to build new settlements in the occupied territories, while enforcing these incursions with U.S.-made hardware. Not only are no economic sanctions applied against Israel, but a complete cover up of Israeli brutalities is engineered in international forums by American diplomats. Furthermore, the U.S. administration

only urge the Arabs to demonstrate their good intentions in the region, on pain of being held responsible for any lost opportunities.

The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, on the other hand, pose new questions as to what the U.S. really has in mind for the region when its words and deeds are compared. Indeed the groans and yearnings of the Sabra and Shatila massacre victims were almost forgotten in the American confusion over peace in Lebanon.

The Israeli occupation forces are still firmly on Lebanese soil. While the Israelis laughably titled, operation peace in Galilee, has turned into a claim on the territory of southern Lebanon, masquerading under the call for early-warning stations. Free passage to Lebanon for Israeli exports is also a precondition for an Israeli partial withdrawal of forces, as is the normalisation of relations between Lebanon and Israel.

Economic 'autonomy' in occupied territories

The following article was written by Israel Shahak, professor of organic chemistry at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights.

The system of occupation in Lebanon by the Israeli forces is of the same nature as the system of occupation in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights, only worse in every respect. One of the most glaring aspects of oppression in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 has been the mercantile system of trade imposed on them.

All exports from Israel to the territories are allowed and even encouraged. All exports from the territories to Israel are strictly forbidden, except under special permit and only when Israel does not produce the product to be imported from the territories. Such a system amounts, of course, to the worst form of exploitation.

Some examples will illustrate this system's mode of operation. In Gaza there is an old (and primitive) fishing industry. It is kept primitive by forbidding the Gaza fishermen to buy better boats or to

fish in the better areas of the sea, which are reserved for the mechanised and state-supported Israeli fishing ships. Even so, the fish caught by the Gaza fishermen cannot be sold in Israel (i.e., within the 1967 borders, plus annexed East Jerusalem); they can only be sold in Gaza or the West Bank. But the tinned fish produced by the Israeli factories can be, and are, sold in Gaza. In exactly the same way, Israeli vegetables and fruits are sold in the occupied territories, but fruits and vegetables need a special permit to be sold in Israel. When there is a bumper crop of grapes in the West Bank, roadblocks are immediately set up on the roads leading to Tel Aviv to prevent their sale there.

Under such a system the only way open for the producers in the occupied territories to survive is to export their surplus. But even here the same system operates. Any export of any occupied territories' products to any country in which they might compete with a similar Israeli product is strictly prohibited by the military government. For example, Gaza oranges cannot be exported to any country to which Israel exports its

own oranges, or to Israel itself, of course.

Oppression

Even greater oppression and absurdities can be found in the case of imports to the occupied territories. Under its agreements with South Africa, Israel is obliged to promote South African exports. At least since 1975, Israel has tried to promote the sale of certain South African products such as fruit preserves, juices, and marmalades. When these products proved unsuccessful on the Israeli market, they were "unloaded" on the West Bank market by the simple expedient of forbidding all other similar imports....

But even this system had a loophole from Sharon's point of view: All Israeli products can be sold in the occupied territories, and the products whose prices are kept artificially low by subsidies, are also exported and sold in the territories at the same prices as in Israel. At present there are only a few of those: bread, milk and some milk products, oil, and frozen chicken.

Even here there is dis-

crimination against the Palestinians: The European-type common bread and the white halah eaten on Sabbaths are subsidised and cheap; but the halah, the common Arab bread, is officially classified as a cake and is not subsidised and hence much more expensive. (Subsidies were eliminated in the system applied to Lebanon. — Ed.)

Immediately after the beginning of the invasion of Lebanon, the same system of one-sided trade was imposed on Lebanon, with "modifications" which make it even worse. Not only is all export from Lebanon to Israel prohibited while all export from Israel to Lebanon is allowed and encouraged without payment of any customs duties, but Israeli products exported to Lebanon must be paid for in foreign currency, whereas in the occupied territories Israeli products can at least be paid for in Israeli currency. Furthermore, Lebanon is a country much more dependent on trade than the West Bank and Gaza ever were, and since no Lebanese president can be expected to form a customs barrier at the southern outskirts of Beirut, the result is that all Leba-

non is being exploited under this mercantile system. This is at present the most important source of conflict between Sharon's Israel and any independent regime in Lebanon.

It should be added, in conclusion, that not only do the Israeli exports under this system grow enormously, but the Israeli military government of Lebanon does everything in its power to promote Israeli exports and to destroy every Lebanese product that can compete with them. An obvious example is Israeli-grown produce.

Since Lebanon and Israel are rather similar countries in terms of soil and climate, they produce the same vegetables and fruits. Therefore, in the majority of the town markets of Israeli-occupied Lebanon, a military regulation has been imposed since early September 1982, that until 10:00 a.m. only Israeli produce can be sold; the Lebanese can sell their own produce only after that time. This regulation illustrates perfectly the totalitarian system of rule over the occupied territories, whether conquered in 1967 or in 1982.

— From the Palestine-Israel Bulletin

Economic but not political case for austerity measures

The dilemma facing M. Mitterrand

By David Housego

PARIS — For those in the Elysee Palace who read the memoirs of former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson — and there are a few — there is a passage which is likely to strike an uncomfortable familiar chord. It is when Mr. Wilson describes the horrors of "what it meant to live against a background of this persistent speculation... it meant that every action we took had to be considered against a background of the confidence factor... that things we had decided to do, right in themselves... had to be right in such a way as to minimise possible speculative consequences."

For this is the dilemma facing the French government over the next two months when the franc is also in for a bumpy ride. France holds the first round of its municipal elections on March 6. These will be the first major national test of the government's popularity since it took office in May 1981 — and also the last electoral contest before the legislative elections of 1986. The same day, West Germany holds its general elections, which will also — indirectly — have a crucial effect on the franc.

Political suicide

Socialist leaders regard any devaluation of the franc before then as political suicide. Officials see no hope of a revaluation of the Deutsch mark and say that Bono has put major issues of European monetary cooperation, of joint Franco-German support for a European loan to boost investment and of Franco-German industrial collaboration on the back-burner until after the election.

In any case, French officials argue that there is no justification for a further devaluation of the franc because French international industrial com-

petitiveness has improved and France's anti-inflationary policies require that the franc follow the D-mark upwards.

The foreign exchange markets, however, do not take so sanguine a view. The downward slide of the dollar has been accentuating the pressure on the franc within the European Monetary System (EMS).

France and the U.S. are the only two major industrialised countries likely to have big current account deficits in 1983 — in France's case \$8.25 billion on OECD estimates. France's inflation rate is likely to rise again to about 10 per cent on an annual basis in the first six months of this year as increases in rents and public charges take effect. It fell back to an annualised 6.7 per cent during the last half of 1982 under the impact of the wages and prices freeze of the time.

Meanwhile, the slow-down in the economic growth rate is bound to produce fresh problems in financing the budget and social security deficits. These lack-lustre economic signs have provoked a spate of ministerial hints of a new round of belt tightening. M. Jacques Delors, the finance minister, declared last month that if necessary he "would not hesitate to recommend a new twist of the monetary and budgetary screw."

Strong case

There is a strong economic case for carrying this through as soon as possible as part of a stabilisation package linked to a further realignment of currencies within the EMS. But in political terms, it is ruled out before the municipal

elections. An increasingly restless radical faction within the Socialist Party fears that the government is being pulled back into the deflationary policies of the former government. Though by no means a united group, they would prefer a more expansionary economic policy even at the risk of increased foreign borrowing or of cuts on imports.

More important in the political short term is that the Communists — partners in the ruling coalition who still believe that the path to economic recovery passes through higher levels of consumption — would not stomach a further cutback in purchasing power before the March elections. It is equally important for the government to preserve the unity of the left and minimise industrial agitation. To this end, M. Pierre Mauroy, the prime minister, has been making concessions to the Communists over which candidates should represent the left and these have been deeply resented within his own Socialist Party. Thus until the municipal elections are out of the way there is an uneasy truce over economic policy making.

Behind the scenes, officials are drawing up a second austerity package to follow last year's. Its main objectives are to cut the trade deficit to between Ffr 45 billion and Ffr 50 billion (\$6.8 billion and \$7.6 billion) this year and the current account deficit to Ffr 40 billion — roughly half last year's level — so as to reduce France's hefty dependence on overseas borrowing, which last year climbed to the record level for the private and public sector of \$25 billion. Both President Francois Mitterrand and M. Mauroy are against import curbs as a way of reducing the trade deficit.

Austerity measures

The measures under consideration include:

— A further increase in employee social security contributions which will also help offset the cost of lowering the retirement age to 60.

— Some cuts in social security spending through, for instance, curbs on health expenditure.

— A Ffr 20 billion budget expenditure reserve to offset a decline in budget receipts.

— The further raising of public sector tariffs.

— The introduction of forced "savings" for the higher paid as well as tax incentives to reverse the decline in savings.

M. Mitterrand has clearly not made up his mind how far to go down his deflationary path. But he has been preparing the ground both by talking more about the need for "rigour" as well as taking a reassuringly optimistic view of the possibilities of a world recovery — implying that few sacrifices would be short-lived.

His Socialist Party followers are urging M. Mitterrand to hold the party congress next June instead of in October, as tentatively planned, to forestall radical attempts to marshal opposition to government policies or to present alternatives. The Communist Party will have a delicate decision over whether to pull out of the government in the face of new austerity measures.

The government's silent prayer is that the D-mark will also remain weak as a result of the uncertainties within West Germany, thus relieving the pressure on the franc of a declining dollar. But the odds are that it will be a costly two months as the Bank of France dips further into depleted reserves and draws on borrowings abroad to hold the party of the franc.

— Financial Times news features

LETTERS

On artificial hearts

To the editor:

Animated by the — coincidental — parallelism of the two headlines of the articles on page 5, Jordan Times, January 9th. (Folk trope dances real life and Does artificial heart give real life?) I decided to comment on the latter, intentionally discussion concerning the concept "real life".

1. The central role of the heart in myth and poetic allusions through the ages has a single cause: The inability through centuries to understand the physiology of the brain, only because of its complexity.
2. I guess that some hundred thousand people are now living with a pace maker working with fixed settings. These people are very thankful and psychological feel much better than before surgical interference.
3. It seems to me that the question of what constitutes "natural" death when one is talking about a group of already severely sick patients is, at its best, polemic.
4. As well as there is no doubt about the brain being the "end point" there is also a worldwide scientific and ethical consensus about the determination of brain death.
5. Fortunately, medical history proves that not one invention remained the privilege of the upper-middle-class.

Dr. Salah Salah,
Head of Neurosurgery,
King Hussein Medical Centre.

Tendentious allegations about Pakistan's nuclear programme

To the editor:

Walter C. Patterson's article "The Nuclear Fix" published by the Jordan Times on Jan. 16, 1983, carried some allegations regarding the peaceful nuclear programme of Pakistan. I feel impelled to counter the tendentious allegations and state the correct facts.

Pakistan's nuclear programme has been necessitated by its genuine need for energy. The hydro-electric power generated in Pakistan falls far short of its current energy requirements not to speak of its projected development programmes. In addition, hydro-energy is subject to the rise and fall of water-level in the rivers. As a result, Pakistan has to face serious energy shortages every winter. Nuclear technology being the cheapest and surest source of energy can provide a proper answer to Pakistan's energy problems.

The peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme is evident from its whole-hearted acceptance of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards as also from the Agency's complete satisfaction with it. The IAEA, despite having focussed a closer watch on Pakistan's programmes ever since the Indian nuclear test of 1974, has found nothing objectionable. One wonders whether the Jewish propagandists will never forgive a peaceful Muslim country for its unstinted support of the Arab cause.

Abdullah Khan
Jabal Hussein

America's faith in Reaganomics severely tested

By Andrew Nibley
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's political courage and America's faith in Reaganomics, the simplistic brand of economics on which he was elected, are being severely tested by the worst recession in half a century. When Mr. Reagan was making the transition from film star to politician, he often said there are simple solutions to complex problems providing someone has the courage to carry them out.

But now, two years into his presidency, the country is still wallowing in recession and his economic programme has failed to bring back the prosperity of the 1960s as promised. Many analysts believe the president's future depends on the extent of a likely mid-term correction of course. The conservative Republican president's popularity is sagging badly. The latest public opinion polls show that two leading opposition Democrats, former Vice-President Walter Mondale and John Glenn, the astronaut turned Senator, could both defeat him easily if presidential elections were held now.

The coalition that helped push Mr. Reagan's budgets through Congress in the past two years has unravelled and a number of his original economic advisers have left the administration.

"The stench of failure hangs over Ronald Reagan's White

House." The New York Times said in an editorial last week. Despite all these problems, it is still too early to write the president's political obituary. Years ago as governor of California, the country's most populous state, Mr. Reagan demonstrated an uncanny ability to change course when necessary and turn disaster into victory. He will have to repeat that performance now if he is to

save his presidency, political analysts believe. Mr. Reagan came to the White House in January 1981 promising to simultaneously revive the U.S. economy, rebuild America's defences, cut inflation and balance the federal budget. One of his presidential opponents, independent John Anderson, had joked that all this could be done only by using mirrors. George

Bush, another candidate who later became Mr. Reagan's vice-president, called the plan "voodoo economics."

But the president was certain there was a simple solution: have Congress cut income taxes cut 25 per cent over three years while holding down spending on social programmes. Encourage the central bank to maintain a tight monetary policy to reduce infla-

tion. And put the administration to work eliminating government regulations that stifled business investment.

In the end, all of the actors in Mr. Reagan's prosperity play — Congress, the federal reserve board and his own administrators — stuck to the script he had written for them. But instead of prosperity, the country finds itself still mired in a severe recession that began five months after Mr. Reagan took office.

Unemployment

Unemployment has surged to a 42-year high of 10.8 per cent and most private economists believe it will go even higher. Furthermore, the federal budget deficit, which the president had promised to balance this year, now threatens to climb over \$200 billion, almost twice the size of the previous record deficit of \$110 billion set just last year.

The one area where Mr. Reagan has delivered on his promises has been inflation, which has been cut in half to six per cent. These economic developments have forced many of the president's closest advisers and friends to urge him to change his policies. Some have even deserted him altogether.

Last week a group of 12 former top government officials from his Republican Party and the opposition Democratic Party urged the president to raise taxes significantly to cut the ballooning

budget deficits.

Others in Congress and within the administration itself have warned the president that he will also have to pare his massive defence buildup if the deficits are to be brought down. From all sides, friend and foe alike, Mr. Reagan is being told that if he does nothing about these deficits, U.S. interest rates will soar to new heights, choking off any economic recovery that might develop. There are growing signs that the president is beginning to see the need for a mid-course correction. While the remains convinced his economic policies will eventually work, Mr. Reagan has begun to entertain talk from his advisers about lower defence spending and higher taxes, talk he would have dismissed as heresy just a few months ago.

The president last week decided that he will recommend in his budget message later this month that pay raises be withheld this year for both the military and government employees. At the same time, he has allowed his advisers to draw up a major tax increase plan that would begin within three years if the economy had not improved enough to bring down deficits.

These steps are small but they nevertheless represent the first signs that Mr. Reagan may be willing to compromise and take unpopular decisions, as he did in raising taxes in California towards the end of his governorship.



Well, yes... he is a recession, but he's only a little one.

Western press insults Arabs in Middle East coverage

By Claud Morris

LONDON — Is it not surprising how many people use foul language about Arabs and Palestinians who would never dare do so about Jews? For an example of the odd disparity in press attitudes towards Arab as compared to Jew read the following. It comes from the pen of Andrew Alexander, who writes a regular full page political commentary in the London "Daily Mail".

"Not many of us, I suggest, care that much for the Arabs (except the Foreign Office of course, and certain M.P.s who are just Arab-crazy). As for the Palestinians in particular, they are surely, not to put too fine a point on it, among the world's most awful bloody people."

Of course if this paragraph, appearing in a one-and-a-half million circulation paper like the "Daily Mail", had in fact referred to Jews instead of Arabs, there would have been uproar in Jewish circles in Britain. And rightly so. The remarks are racist, slanderous, insulting and derogatory to any race.

What was the response of Arabs in London to this article? Mr. Omar Al Hassan, the Arab League ambassador here, immediately telephoned John Dickie, the "Daily Mail" diplomatic correspondent, simply for the reason that Mr. Dickie, a likeable and fair-minded Scotsman was known and respected in Arab circles. Ambassador Al Hassan in his protest expressed some surprise at the nature of the article.

On the same day, he also wrote a follow-up letter to Mr. Dickie pointing out how offensive such remarks might seem to many people and politicians. He hoped that the article represented only the personal opinion of Andrew Alexander, and not that of the "Daily Mail".

John Dickie then passed the article to the Editor of the "Mail". Sir David English, Sir David in turn passed the complaint to Mr. Alexander.

What reply was received? Was it decent, responsible or in the least responsive?

To the suggestion of Omar Al Hassan that there should be some editorial disclaimer by the "Daily

Mail", something at least to indicate that the newspaper did not necessarily agree with the views expressed by Andrew Alexander, Mr. Alexander penned a reply with all the tact and delicacy of an elephant, the following words:-

"...I marvel at your impudence. No Israeli official would have written a letter at once so absurd and ignorant. No wonder, as I said in my article, we do not care much for Arabs."

What does Mr. Alexander tell us about his own attitudes by the wording of this reply to a letter from an Arab diplomat, a guest in Britain? One is left with a profound sense of disgust at the emotional and mental attitudes of an important British commentator to people of another race.

"Mail" editor-in-chief, Sir David English, is a prominent Fleet Streeter. He frequently claims to uphold professional press standards. Would a spoonful of courtesy to a reader on the part of his leading political writer, be out of place? Why unnecessarily estrange people? What would have been Sir David's response had, say, some editor from the Arab Gulf publicly written a British diplomat a letter using this sort of language? Or if the Jewish people had been described by Andrew Alexander in the same terms, as "the world's most bloody awful people"?

Britain of all countries should not be thinking in its media of people as black, white, brown or yellow, but all as sons of God with the same needs.

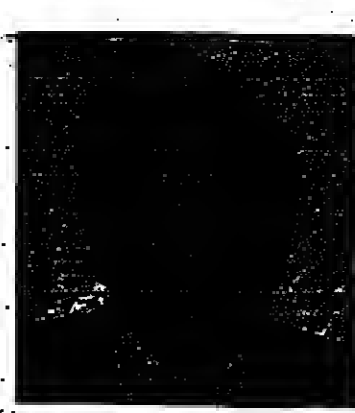
"Express" on Arafat

For yet another example of the sheer spreading of alarm and despondency about Arabs, one cannot do worse than turn to Sir John Junor, Editor of the London "Sunday Express". When he gets on to Middle East topics, like certain other writers, Sir John apparently feels it fair game to insult the Arab name at every opportunity.

Describing the way in which PLO left Beirut he wrote in his "Sunday Express" column: "they were slobbering over each other like poor proffers".

Now, whatever Sir John says in his cocky column about the Pales-

tinians who defended Beirut, every military authority with whom the subject has been discussed (including Israelis) has admitted that they put up a remarkable guerrilla defence of the city. This defence held back for almost two months an army which has been described as the major military machine in the



Claud Morris

Middle East. That army, as an integrated attack force, is recognised to be as tough as they come.

To describe the Palestinians who sustained this feat of arms and nerve as "poofs" is ridiculous. Sir John, continuing to play his Sunday role as the most aggressive typewriter guerrilla, at present operating in Fleet Street went on:

"Nor was I enamoured with Yasser Arafat being greeted in Athens as though he was Queen of the May. Instead of the fast, greasy, terrorist thing he is".

Does it occur to Sir John that the Greeks were, in fact, saluting the man who led the force that defended an open city against great odds, and demonstrated considerable diplomatic as well as military skills in winning what in the end turned out to be a moral victory? The Greeks have a feeling for people who bring to life the Romantic's great military dream, to grasp defeat and convert it into triumph of a kind.

Obviously, however, Sir John appreciates nothing of this kind. And he goes on to claim that Arafat has said he is now going to make the rest of the world "pay" for its failure to support the Palestinians in Beirut by the "assassination of Jews and terrorists". This was written at the height of

the Israeli carnage against Beirut. And the "Sun" editorial concluded:

"The blood in the Lebanon, and everywhere else that hatred reigns in the Middle East — is not the Israeli's fault. It lies on the hands of the unforgiving, unyielding Arabs".

This extraordinary view puts the "Sun" in a minority of one in the British press in the feat of blaming the civilian carnage in Beirut on the Arabs, who flew not one single aircraft over the city at any time.

"New York Times" Censorship

Is there editorial prejudice elsewhere, where Arab news is concerned? Unfortunately, yes. For example, Thomas L. Friedman, Beirut bureau chief for the "New York Times" filed some brilliant stories from Beirut during the siege. He sent one report describing the Israeli shelling and bombing as "indiscriminate". Yet next day, when his report appeared, the sub-editors of the "New York Times" had taken the key word "indiscriminate" out of his report!

Tom Friedman complained to Abe Rosenthal, his executive editor, that the censorship of this one word was an example of "the most appalling news judgement". He said that he felt "humiliated" and "indignant" at the way his paper suppressed a key word in a story, the whole intention of which was to show that the Israelis had bombed the city with the apparent aim of terrorising its civilian population.

It is frequently alleged that the Western press is supposed to set an example for the Arabs in fair-minded reporting. But even the illustrious "New York Times" has the pettiness, prejudice and (dare one say it?) dishonesty to censor a single word which shows the Israelis in a poor light.

Does anyone wonder why Arabs look with ill-concealed suspicion at many reports in the "New York Times", which claims to trade in high-minded moral currency? Tom Friedman in his telex to his

executive editor, Abe Rosenthal said:-

"It was clear from what I reported that what took place yesterday was 'indiscriminate' bombing and shelling. My God, your own reporter's hotel was hit 30 feet from his room and there are no Palestinian positions in the Comodore, let alone near all the other prominent institutions I noted...."

One might ask a plain question. Did Abe Rosenthal allow his loyalty and affection for Israel get in the way of his commitment to truth in a great profession? I am afraid it looks that way.

Not only has it been difficult to get the whole truth of the happenings in Lebanon reported in America during the past few months. Memories are short. Unless the conscience of the world is constantly reminded of the suffering that has taken place, it will be soon forgotten. As a commentator in the London "Daily Express", Philip Jacobson recently reminded his readers in a dispatch from Lebanon, the grim image and the savaging of Beirut and Sidon is now fading fast in the world's memory.

Double standards

Are things going to get better? Arabs should be warned that improvement in Western media manners, or fairer treatment for Arabs from pugilistic pressmen like Andrew Alexander or the eminently readable Sir John Junor, is about as likely as the former General Leopoldo Galtieri of Argentina being invited to Number Ten Downing Street, or President Reagan asking Mr. Andropov for tea and bynams around the piano at the White House.

In fact, the Israelis are already spending hundreds of thousands of dollars where the Arabs spend a few thousand, in attempting once again to influence the Western mind.

Christopher Walker in the London "Times" has already reported that Israel is now oiling its publicity machinery.

Producers at the British Broadcasting Corporation as well as U.S. television companies like

NBC and CBS say they are being "overwhelmed" by protests from Jewish bodies that they must give the Israeli point of view "more fairly" this coming winter.

Like Caliban incensed at the ugliness of his own reflection in a mirror, the Israelis, having done some pretty crude things, attack their critics for having reflected or reported what actually happened. The Guild of Jewish Journalists has complained to Independent Television News in London for having reported that some Lebanese children suffered malnutrition during the blockade of Beirut.

The BBC programme "Newsnight" is under fire from the "Jewish Chronicle" for presenting the views of British Jews who disagree with Zionism.

James F. Clarity who represents the "New York Times" in Jerusalem has written an article on the topic headed "Israel seeking to win the battle of the headlines".

Yes, Israel is anxious to get back as fast as possible to the "double standard" of reporting where everything Arab and Palestinian is spoken of as "black", "terroristic" and "treacherous" whilst everything Israeli is, on the other hand, described as "just", "democratic" and essentially "peaceful".

The battle for the minds of men goes on, even when the guns are silent — something that many Arab governments do not always appreciate.

At Fex, dealing with the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the Summi's final declaration sought to "draw the attention of international public opinion to the seriousness and the consequences of Israeli aggression on the stability and security of the region".

Yes, but when will the Arabs as a whole, aware from a conference like Fex, really wake up to the fact that good name and reputation, and defence of that good name and reputation, are the only worthwhile and lasting things a man or a nation has?

The good name of a nation, as with a man, is, I believe, the soul of a nation. And both Koran and Bible, let it be remembered, say the same thing: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul".

Claud Morris is editor of the London-based "Voice of the Arab World"

Disguising the deficit

By Fahd Al Fanek

Al Fanek Columnist

According to the 1983 government budget, the admitted deficit reaches about JD 33.4 million. The budget statement made a good attempt to minimise the significance of such a figure, because — it was said — this represents less than 4.2 per cent of the total budget and only 7.9 per cent of domestic revenues.

A more careful scrutiny of the budget indicates that the real deficit is far greater than that. It depends, to a large extent, the way deficit is viewed. We think that external and domestic loans can in no way be listed under revenues, as they are simply used for covering standing deficits, and have to be repaid.

Locked at this way, the real deficit is the amount described as such in the budget, plus JD 37 million in local and external borrowings, classified in the budget as revenues. This brings the total deficit up to JD 70 million.

Moreover, Capital loans for development purposes amount to JD 86 million, while repayments of loan instalments amount to JD 52 million. The net amount of borrowing is therefore JD 34 million, which should be added to the deficit. Thus the real deficit amounts to over JD 100 million, i.e. 13 per cent of the total budget's.

One can observe that, this time, the budget is organised in a way that overestimates capital outlay. It is true that spending borrowed money on projects is genuine capital outlay, but to reassess repaid instalments as capital outlay only means repetition of the capital spending process for the same item, once in the year of borrowing and allocation, and again when repayment takes place.

It is imperative to point out that the budget deficit has resulted, broadly speaking, from borrowing to finance development. Development spending amounts to about JD 250 million, excluding capital outlay of various kinds by government ministries and departments. Hence, any reduction of deficit will automatically mean reduction of development spending.

This can only be avoided if a dramatic change of financial and administrative methods is applied — to remove government subsidies on basic commodities, reduce the number of government employees, and reconsider the existence of a number of inessential government institutions and departments which cost too much and produce too little.

In any case, the deficit in Jordan's national budget brings shame on the Arab oil-producing countries, which remain indifferent towards supplying a front-line country with its basic needs, while astronomical amounts of petro-dollars rot in foreign

Irish pressure groups campaign to introduce divorce

By Bette O'Connor

Reuter

DUBLIN — Ireland, the only country in Europe where divorce is barred, looks set to introduce it soon, according to pressure groups and liberal politicians.

The minority Workers' Party plans later this month to introduce a bill in the Irish Parliament calling for a referendum on divorce. The party does not expect to get sufficient backing for its bill at this stage but a spokesman said support was growing for reform and politicians could no longer avoid the issue.

Legal proceedings have already begun to take the government of this predominantly Catholic country to the European court of

human rights over the ban.

"The absence of civil divorce in our country is a deprivation of civil liberty, which is unacceptable in a modern Western democracy," said the Dublin-based divorce action group in its submission to the European Commission on Human Rights, which must decide whether the court can hear the case.

Campaigners say the ban could finally go under the new, more liberal government of Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald which replaced Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail administration last month.

The Labour Party is the junior partner in Dr. Fitzgerald's government and party sources said divorce reform figured prominently in pre-coalition bar-

gaining.

The government agreed to set up an all-party committee which will make recommendations on the problem of marital breakdown and the protection of marriage and on any required legislative

recognition in Ireland.

But a British divorce obtained by an Irishwoman will not be recognised if her husband lives in Ireland, because she is legally considered to be domiciled in the same country as he.

"The absence of civil divorce in our country is a deprivation of civil liberty, which is unacceptable in a modern Western democracy".

and constitutional changes.

Under existing law, anomalies abound. An Irishman can get a divorce in neighbouring Britain if he is residing there, and this will be

recognised in Ireland.

But a British divorce obtained by an Irishwoman will not be recognised if her husband lives in Ireland, because she is legally considered to be domiciled in the same country as he.

Dr. Fitzgerald is known to favour liberalising the constitution, which was strongly influenced by the Catholic church when it was drawn up in 1937.

Labour Party sources said the all-party committee, which must complete its report by the end of this year, would almost certainly recommend that a referendum be held.

But a spokeswoman for Fianna Fail, still the largest party despite

riages never existed. But the civil courts do not recognise these, and regard remarriages following them as bigamous.

A spokesman for the Labour Party said he had no doubt that divorce would be introduced in the Irish Republic. It was only a matter of what form the legislation should take.

The last big opinion poll on divorce, conducted in 1980 for The Irish Independent newspaper, showed 42 per cent favoured its introduction, with eight per cent undecided. This compared with 22 per cent in favour and five per cent undecided nine years earlier.

The divorce action group says between 40 and 70 per cent of the population want divorce legalised, and it is confident that a referen-

dum will be held in about 18 months, probably to coincide with elections to the European Parliament in June 1984.

The group also cited an article by a leading Irish Catholic sociologist, the Rev. Liam Ryan, in this month's issue of the Catholic magazine, the Furrow, showing that only a minority of Irish Catholics accept their church's prohibition on divorce.

The special position of the church was removed from the constitution in a referendum in 1973. But the divorce action group says the church's defensive position prevents open discussion in divorce.

"This attitude creates a climate where politicians are virtually frightened of taking any initiative," it said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:10 Children's Programme
18:30 Sport
18:50 Muppet Show
19:20 Programmes Review
19:30 Armed Forces Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Special Programme
22:00 Arabic Varieties
22:35 Free Discussion
23:05 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: The Other 'Art'
21:00 One Hundred Great Paintings
21:10 Documentary: Weekend World
22:00 News in English
22:15 The Agatha Christie Hour

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:10 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:05 Morning Show
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Picnic Time
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Old Favorites
17:00 First Step
18:00 News Summary
18:35 Annual, Vegetable, Mineral
19:00 News Summary
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newswatch 06:30 The Beltan

06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Star Profile 07:45 Makers of Music 17:30 News 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Talking About Music 08:00 World News 08:30 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Just a Minute 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Posh's Choice 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music Now 12:15 Saying on 12:30 Album Time 12:40 World News 12:49 News About Britain 12:15 Jazz Workshop 12:30 Let's All Go To The Music Hall 14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Country Style 15:45 Talking About Music 16:15 I Say, You Say! 16:30 John Peel 17:00 Radio Newswatch 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Monday at Large 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Just a Minute 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:09 News about Britain 21:15 Radio Newswatch 21:30 What It Takes to Be a Muslim 21:40 Outlook 21:50 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Football Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sporting International 23:00 Network U.K. 23:15 Short Story 23:30 Monday at Large 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Sports News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Classical Record Review 01:30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?

06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Star Profile 07:45 Makers of Music 17:30 News 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Talking About Music 08:00 World News 08:30 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Just a Minute 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Posh's Choice 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music Now 12:15 Saying on 12:30 Album Time 12:40 World News 12:49 News About Britain 12:15 Jazz Workshop 12:30 Let's All Go To The Music Hall 14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Country Style 15:45 Talking About Music 16:15 I Say, You Say! 16:30 John Peel 17:00 Radio Newswatch 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Monday at Large 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Just a Minute 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:09 News about Britain 21:15 Radio Newswatch 21:30 What It Takes to Be a Muslim 21:40 Outlook 21:50 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Football Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sporting International 23:00 Network U.K. 23:15 Short Story 23:30 Monday at Large 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Sports News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Classical Record Review 01:30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?

VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz 1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725

06:00 Daybreak 06:00 The Breakfast Show 11:00 News Roundup: Reports, Activities, News Summary 17:30 VOA Magazine Show: Americana, Science, Literature 18:00 Special English News 18:10 Special English Science and Technology 18:20 Special English News 18:30 Special English News 18:40 Special English News 18:50 Special English News 19:00 Special English News 19:10 Special English News 19:20 Special English News 19:30 Special English News 19:40 Special English News 19:50 Special English News 20:00 Special English News 20:10 Special English News 20:20 Special English News 20:30 Special English News 20:40 Special English News 20:50 Special English News 21:00 Special English News 21:10 Special English News 21:20 Special English News 21:30 Special English News 21:40 Special English News 21:50 Special English News 22:00 Special English News 22:10 Special English News 22:20 Special English News 22:30 Special English News 22:40 Special English News 22:50 Special English News 23:00 Special English News 23:10 Special English News 23:20 Special English News 23:30 Special English News 23:40 Special English News 23:50 Special English News 24:00 Special English News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

"Travels de Peinture sur Soie" at the French Cultural Centre.

VIDEO

* Les Spectacles de Décembre 1982 (5:00 p.m.) and Visions: An Ode to the Rue de Paris (at 6:00 p.m.) at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

* Les Enfants du Paradis (1st part) by Marcel Carné at the French Cultural Centre 8:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arabi Centre 66518
Hansa Youth City 66718
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 56111
University of Jordan Library 84355

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 21760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf'a (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mon-

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
06:45 Cairo (EA)
09:00 Damascus (RU)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:30 Jeddah (RU)
09:40 Doha (RU)
09:45 Kuwait (RU)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RU)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
10:15 Beirut (RU)
10:40 Kuwait (KA)
10:50 Abo Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:20 Moscow (RU)
14:35 Kuwait (KA)
15:30 Tunis, Athens (TU)
15:35 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:30 Bangkok (RU)
16:30 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
18:20 Athens (GF)
18:30 Cairo (RU)
19:20 Cairo (EA)
19:30 Baghdad (DLA)
20:00 Amsterdam, Athens (KL)
20:15 Tripoli (LA)
20:40 Beirut (MEA)
21:00 London (BA)
21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
22:30 Baghdad (RU)
00:30 Cairo (RU)
00:45 Baghdad (RU)
01:45 Cairo (EA)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 130 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 130 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club: Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweidh, 37440.
De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Resurrection) Jabel Amman, 43423.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

PRAYER TIMES

05:13 Fajr
06:35 (Sunrise) Shuray
11:48 Dhahir
17:41 'Asr
18:23 Maghrib
18:23 Jaha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
06:45 Cairo (EA)
09:00 Damascus (RU)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:30 Jeddah (RU)
09:40 Doha (RU)
09:45 Kuwait (RU)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RU)
10:00

SPORTS

Lendl overwhelms Connors

NEW YORK (R) — An awesome display of power tennis gave holder Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia a crushing 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jimmy Connors in the semifinals of the Grand Prix Masters Championship here Saturday.

Lendl, 22, now faces 1979 winner John McEnroe, the 6-3, 6-3 cooquer of Argentine Guillermo Vilas, for the \$100,000 first prize in Sunday's final.

Rarely, if ever, has Connors been so thoroughly overwhelmed as he was by Lendl, who has now beaten him three times in their last four meetings.

Lendl's booming serve was devastating, except for the fifth game in the second set when Connors achieved his only service break after trailing 4-0.

The Czechoslovak, ranked third in the world behind McEnroe and Connors, allowed his rival to reach deuce only once in his seven other service games.

Lendl was equally punishing with his groundstrokes and had nine outright winners to Connors' two. But that statistic was misleading, since he forced at least a dozen more errors with his punishing forehand.

Lendl broke Connors for the first time in the fifth game of the opening set.

And three forehand winners, followed by a netted Connors' backhand, gave Lendl another break and his chance for the set in the ninth game.

Connors also lost the first four games of the second set then gained his lone service break on three Lendl errors and a double-fault.

The Czechoslovak promptly broke back following more errors by Connors and served his way to victory.

Connors, who has not reached the Masters final since his 1978 win, said Lendl's serve was the key

to victory.

"He served very well," Connors said. "I came out hitting the ball pretty good, but he started whacking a few. And if he's making them, it's rough."

Lendl, who has lost his service only once in 17 games in the tournament, said: "I was not too happy with my serve yesterday, but today I tossed the ball higher. And I put a lot of pressure on him."

Lendl added: "I wanted to beat Jimmy very badly because I have not done it many times."

Connors, with only one tournament behind him over the last month—he lost to Lendl in the final—said he need more competition.

"If I am going to get into the kind of shape that I want to get into, I cannot just sit around. I have taken too much time off," he said.

Rummenigge likely to follow Breitner out of Bayern Munich

BONN (R) — Fans of Bayern Munich, West Germany's most famous soccer club, could be forgiven for thinking the events of recent weeks are signaling the end of one of their richest eras.

If the half-expected news that captain Paul Breitner was retiring at the end of the season was disappointing, then the reaction of international striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to the announcement sent shock waves rebounding round Bayern's terraces.

"It's now fifty per cent certain I will also leave Bayern at the end of this season," said the two-time European Footballer of the Year.

"I have already thought about whether I should stay until my contract ends in 1985."

To lose Rummenigge and Breitner at once would be a bitter blow to Bayern, whose success over the past four years has been built around the partnership.

The contained aggression and pinpoint passing of Breitner, coupled with Rummenigge's perfect positional sense and explosive finishing, carried the side to League titles in 1980 and 1981, to victory in last year's West German Cup final and into the final of last year's European Cup, where they were beaten by England's Aston Villa.

But this season Bayern's honour trail has gone cold, their aura of invincibility has been lost and they are in danger of ending the season without a major trophy for the first time since 1979.

Already out of the Domestic Cup, Bayern face a daunting quarter-final tie against Scotland's Aberdeen in the European Cup Winners' Cup and must Bundesliga managers have privately awarded the championship to

Hamburg with 17 matches to go. Manager Pal Csernai now faces a similar situation to that which brought about Detmar Cramer's dismissal in December 1977.

Then, like now, Bayern bought heavily—and unsuccessfully—after Franz Beckenbauer's move to New York Cosmos. But their form slumped and left goalkeeping stalwart Sepp Maier and striker Gerd Mueller shouldering most of the burden.

Of Csernai's buys last summer only Belgian international goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff seems to be paying off and the team's performances have relied increasingly on "Breitnigge".

The writing is on the wall for the introverted Csernai—there are rumors his contract may not be renewed after this season—and Rummenigge for one has read it.

"I am not going to play in a mediocre club. I would like to continue playing in Munich but only under certain conditions," said 27-year-old Rummenigge last week.

One of these conditions is that Polish star Zbigniew Boniek, who joined Italian side Juventus after

the World Cup finals, takes over Breitner's role.

But club officials have ruled this out, believing that Juventus are unlikely to part with Boniek for anything less than the two million dollars they paid for him.

Boniek's French team-mate Michel Platini has expressed interest in joining Bayern but the club is said to be watching England midfielder Glenn Hoddle whose contract with Tottenham ends in May.

But for West German fans the most exciting possibility is that Bayern will entice Bernd Schuster—the enfant terrible of West German soccer—back to the Bundesliga.

Schuster, in self-imposed exile with Barcelona since a bust-up with his Cologne manager two years ago, returned to the national team for the first time in 18 months for the European Championship defeat by Northern Ireland in November.

The prospect of a Schuster-Rummenigge link-up would delight Bayern's fans, not to mention national team boss Jupp Derwall.

W.Indian rebels barred for life from visiting Australia

CANBERRA (R) — West Indies players on the rebel tour of South Africa were Sunday barred for life from visiting Australia.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said in a statement that the tour was a deliberate and blatant attempt to breach the Gleneagles Agreement barring Commonwealth sporting contacts with South Africa.

"Because of this, the people involved in this particular tour will not be given visas to visit Australia," Mr. Fraser said.

West Indies cricketers frequently visit Australia to coach and play in state cricket.

West Indies test player David Murray, who lives in Adelaide and has been playing local League cricket, last week joined the rebel tour.

He is expected to be affected by the ban announced by Mr. Fraser, who said in his statement that he entirely agreed with the attitude taken towards the tour by West Indian governments.

Meanwhile West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding, playing for Tasmania, said he had rejected a \$250,000 offer to join the tour.

Winter Olympics organisers criticise Canadian government

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Organisers of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary claim the Canadian government is dragging its feet over finances and holding up major capital projects.

The government has agreed to supply almost half the games' \$345 million budget but full negotiations have not started yet on who will pay for what.

Organising chairman Frank King said Ottawa's pace was causing difficulties. "The speed with which that support is being converted into bankable form is slower than we would like," he said.

Coetzee fails to qualify for world heavyweight championship

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa, needing a victory to qualify for a third attempt at the world heavyweight championship, was held to an upset 10-round draw by American Pinklo Thomas Saturday night.

One judge gave Coetzee, 27, a slight edge on points but the other two scored it even. Judge Paul Cavaliere scored the bout 5-4-1 for Coetzee. But judge Frank Brunette scored it 5-5 and judge

Richard Murry had it 4-4-2. All of the judges are from New Jersey.

Coetzee, 28-3-1, who lost previous championship fights to John Tate and Mike Weaver, came into the fight ranked as the World Boxing Association's number-one challenger for Michael Dokes' crown. He fought at 221½ pounds.

Thomas, 24, who weighed 211 pounds, was ranked number seven. His record is now 20-0-1.

There were no knockdowns in the fight. After a sluggish start, it appeared Coetzee had taken command in the middle rounds.

Coetzee's steady barrage of rights had swelled the left side of Thomas' face around his left eye.

But in the eighth round, Thomas threw a big overhand right which hurt open the skin just above Coetzee's left eye, starting a torrent of blood down his cheek and chest and turning the fight Thomas' way.

After the fight, held at the Sands Hotel and Casino, both men said they would be willing to have a rematch.

FIFA approves sites for Olympic soccer tournament

LOS ANGELES (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) approved the sites for the first round of next year's Olympic soccer tournament, the games organisers announced.

A statement by Los Angeles Organising Committee (LAOC) Vice-President Charles Cale said the FIFA approval was subject to a final inspection tour to be made soon.

First-round matches will be held at Stanford stadium, San Francisco (seating capacity 84,892) Harvard stadium, Boston (37,289) and the Navy-Marine stadium at Annapolis, Virginia (30,000).

The quarter-finals and semifinals will be staged at Stanford stadium and the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles with the final and third-place match scheduled for the Rose Bowl, which can seat 104,696.

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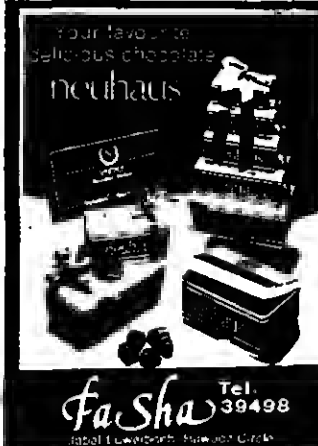
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A LECTURE/FILM SHOW ON The Design of Highways in Britain

will be presented by a British expert, Mr. D. Wood, at UKAS Club (see map) on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7:00 p.m.

All those interested are welcome to attend.

WORLD

Nakasone faces repercussions from controversial U.S. visit

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone faces an opposition challenge on defence policy, which could prompt early elections, when parliament reopens Monday.

Most opposition parties, holding between 218 of the lower house's 511 seats and 111 of 252 seats in the upper house, oppose a 6.5 per cent rise in arms spending in next financial year's draft budget.

They have also criticised Mr. Nakasone for saying last week in Washington he wanted Japan to become an invincible aircraft carrier to counter Soviet strength in the Pacific.

Opposition leaders have not disclosed their tactics for the new parliamentary session but in the past they have been able to block legislation by stalling debates.

Mr. Nakasone said in Washington he would dissolve the lower house if necessary and call a snap general election. The next one is due in June 1984.

He also denied making the carrier remark attributed to him by the Washington Post but later retracted the denial, saying he had misunderstood a news conference question.

He corrected another comment to the Washington Post that Japan wanted to defend the four straits around it. "I did say four straits but

that was a mistake," he said. "The accurate number of straits surrounding Japan is three."

Opposition parties suggested he was thinking of the strait between South Korea and Japan's Tsushima Island as the fourth.

On a visit to Seoul before his Washington trip, Mr. Nakasone denied Korean newspaper reports that Japan and South Korea had a three-way defence agreement with the United States.

Defence agency sources said Japan needed military expansion to counter Soviet Backfire bombers which threaten the U.S. Navy. Japan has a pacifist constitution but Washington is pressing it to spend more on arms.

Newspapers and opposition parties criticised Mr. Nakasone for committing Japan during talks with President Reagan to deeper involvement in anti-Soviet U.S. military strategy.

They were also offended by his remark to Mr. Reagan that the two countries shared a common destiny. "The term evokes in the Japanese mind an image of the two nations perishing together in, for instance, a nuclear holocaust," the Japan Times said.

Mr. Nakasone made no mention of defence when he addressed his Liberal Democratic Party's annual convention Saturday. He said he could build a personal rapport with Mr. Reagan and bind up U.S.-Japanese strains.

Many Britons disagree with Falklands report

LONDON (R) — Seven out of 10 Britons disagree with an official report on the background to the Falklands War and think Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government could have done more to prevent it, according to a poll published Sunday.

The poll in the weekly Observer newspaper said only 22 per cent agreed with the report's finding that Mrs. Thatcher and her Conservative ministers were blameless.

It said 71 per cent thought the government could have done more to prevent the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands last April and misread political and intelligence signals that it was imminent.

The poll findings flatly contradicted the conclusions of the official committee on inquiry headed by Lord Franks, which reported last Tuesday after a six-month examination of the events leading up to

the invasion. Britain recaptured the islands last June after sending a task force to the South Atlantic.

The poll also showed that a clear majority of those interviewed thought the only way to lasting peace in the South Atlantic was for Britain to negotiate with Argentina on the islands' future.

The Observer said 54 per cent of those asked favoured talks with Argentina, while 35 per cent thought Britain should refuse to negotiate.

The poll had one piece of good news for Mrs. Thatcher. Asked who had come out of the Falklands crisis with credit, 56 per cent of the Observer sample named the prime minister while the next highest scorer was former Defence Minister Sir John Nott with just eight per cent.

Nigeria creates problem for Accra by expelling Ghanaians

LAGOS (R) — Ghana may have to appeal for international help in repatriating an estimated one million of its people ordered out of Nigeria as illegal aliens, Ghanaian diplomats said.

They told Reuters there was no definite word from Accra that such an appeal would be made, but said it was difficult to see alternatives if the mammoth repatriation was to go smoothly.

Last Monday Nigeria gave vast numbers of West Africans, who are working here illegally, two weeks to leave the country.

Ghana, whose citizens form the biggest group of illegal aliens, has appealed for an extension of the period, the diplomats said.

They have asked Nigeria to set up transit camps to allow an organised exodus, and for extra protection for people leaving. Diplomats from various West African embassies said they had reports of departing aliens being set upon and robbed.

Nigeria said it was ordering illegal immigrants to quit because they had been abusing an agreement of the economic community of West African states on freedom of movement and many had been involved in crime.

It gave no economic reasons for the expulsion, but diplomats said it seemed the government wanted to create jobs for Nigeria at a time of sharp recession and reduced oil revenues.

Ghanaian aliens will have difficulties getting home as their country's land borders have been closed since September.

Diplomatic sources said today that Benin, Nigeria's western neighbour, had closed its borders to West Africans as it did not want Ghanaians waiting in its territory on their way home.

Ghanaian diplomats said they were waiting to hear from Accra whether the government of Lt. Jerry Rawlings was prepared to open the borders temporarily, as a closed land route through Benin and Togo would make it virtually impossible for most Ghanaians to get home.

LAGOS air and sea ports are besieged by many Ghanaians, with some ships offering passage to Accra for a few thousand people.

Ghana has sent two small cargo ships to Lagos to help in the evacuation, but these are capable of taking only 600-800 people.

2 more hanged in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Two more men have been hanged in Malaysia for firearms offences, bringing to six the number executed in the last week, prison authorities said.

Kok Chin Sewong, a 25-year-old Malaysian Chinese from the southern state of Johore, was hanged at dawn Saturday while Ishak Bin Khalid, a 27-year-old labourer, was executed Friday.

Ishak, from the northern state of Kedah, was convicted in early 1981 for illegal possession of firearms, an offence which carries a mandatory death penalty under

Malaysia's stringent internal security laws.

Kok, who shot a man dead during a robbery, was sentenced to death under firearms legislation passed in 1971 to combat violent crimes.

More than 30 people have been hanged under the security law since 1980 and more than 40 convicts are still on death row.

A group of about 50 Malaysian and Singaporean students demonstrated outside the Malaysian High Commission in London on Thursday to protest at the latest hangings.

Pioneer heart surgeon to retire

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Heart transplant pioneer Christian Barnard announced he will retire from active surgery at the end of the year because of worsening arthritis in his hand.

The 60-year-old surgeon, who shook the medical world by performing the world's first heart transplant in 1967, told the Sunday Tribune newspaper that arthritis was the main reason for his planned retirement.

"I can't pull my weight anymore," he said, complaining that

the disease, which causes inflammation of the joints, made operating increasingly difficult and painful.

The first patient to receive a new heart, businessman Louis Washkansky, died 18 days after his operation in Dec. 1967.

But others who received new hearts at Prof. Barnard's hands at Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital went on to lead virtually normal lives. One recipient, Mary Fisher, lived for 12 years after her transplant in 1969.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q93
♥ J1072
♦ 4
♣ AQ654

EAST
♠ A75
♥ KJ84
♦ 98
♣ Q10753

SOUTH
♠ 1062
♥ AK54
♦ AK86
♣ K5

The bidding:
South: West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

Bridge has borrowed colorful terms from a number of sports to describe its plays. This one comes from one of our favorites, boxing.

The bidding was impeccable. North used the Stayman Convention to locate a heart fit, and then took the pressure off his partner by bounding into game.

The defenders did much better on this hand than we would have. West's lead of the ace of spades can hardly be recommended, because it is more likely to establish tricks for the no trump bidder than to hit partner with sufficient values in the suit to

make the lead worthwhile. But who are we to quibble with success?

West continued with a spade and the defenders quickly reeled in their book. But where was the setting trick to come from? The chances of a diamond trick were slim — declarer was a big favorite to hold the ace. And even if declarer didn't have the king of clubs, that card surely was finessable. By a process of elimination, East worked out that his only hope was a trump trick.

Even that did not look too promising — with the J-10 in dummy, declarer would finess for the queen. However, there was a legitimate chance if West held the nine of trumps. Playing on that assumption, East continued with a fourth round of aces. He was reasonably certain that a ruff and sluff would do declarer little good, but see what havoc it wrought.

After declarer discarded a diamond from hand, West was up to the occasion — he ruffed with the nine of trumps. Dummy overruffed with the ten, but the spots in trumps were significant — East now had promoted one of his trumps into a certain trick. As long as he just covered whatever trump was led from the table, he was assured of the setting trick.

This play is known in the trade as an "uppercut." Few will argue about its effectiveness over the table as in the ring.

By Catherine Campbell
Reuter

KAMPUT CAMP, Thailand — A young Kampuchean woman sat on a tin stool facing the American interviewer. Her anxious trembling shook the baby on her knees.

Keo Cheang Mara, 21, was waiting to be told whether the United States would accept her as a refugee or whether she would be among more than 6,000 Kampuchean in this United Nations-run camp whom no Western countries want.

The verdict came—Keo was accepted. She bowed her head in gratitude and hurried away among the tin and bamboo huts of this dusty camp near the Thai-Kampuchean border. Within months she would be flown to the United States to begin becoming an American.

Keo's brother was rejected because he was married. Had he been single he would have been considered a close enough relative to accompany her, under U.S. immigration rules.

In the past six months, American officials have interviewed about 20,000 Kampucheans in Kamput camp, almost all of them wanting to go to the United States. One third of the Kampucheans have been turned down, told by the immigration and naturalisation service (INS) that they do not fit a strict new U.S. definition of what constitutes a genuine refugee.

Under the INS definition, which came into effect last March, people are not genuine refugees unless they have a well-founded fear of persecution if they return to their own country.

"There are two abandoned Kampuchean babies in a Bangkok hospital that the INS would not accept for foster care in America because the babies couldn't prove they were refugees," said an angry aid worker in Kamput camp.



Typical scene at a makeshift refugee camp along the Thai-Kampuchean border: New Immigration and Naturalisation Service

INS officials said the babies, who both need medical treatment, might later be "paroled" to the United States under a different set of rules.

Before the INS began applying its new definition, the United States considered any Indochinese who had fled his homeland to be a refugee. Tens of thousands of Kampucheans, Vietnamese and Laotians were accepted in recent years.

But this year, many Kampucheans in Kamput camp whose relatives went to the United States in 1981 have been rejected.

Families forced apart

"Six brothers and sisters whose parents were killed in Kampuchea came into Thailand together," an aid worker said. "Last year three were accepted by the U.S. and this year the other three were rejected. This is happening to many

Arms talks to dominate East-West ties

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators return to Geneva this week for talks on limiting the number of European-based nuclear missiles, an issue likely to dominate East-West relations this year.

Paul Nitze of the U.S. and Yuri Kvitsinsky of the Soviet Union will meet on Thursday for another round of the 14-month talks, which must produce progress by late this year if they are not to collapse.

The deadline for success is December, when NATO plans to begin deploying 572 Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe as a counterweight to about 600 Soviet SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles aimed at Western Europe.

As the deployment date approaches, several West Euro-

pean politicians, including West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, have been suggesting that Washington drop its tough negotiating position in favour of a compromise.

At the same time, Soviet officials have been stepping up their criticism of the West's plans and have threatened to scuttle the parallel talks on intercontinental missiles if the new medium-range rockets are deployed, U.S. officials said.

Washington is officially sticking to its "zero option," by which it would drop its deployment plans if Moscow scrapped its medium-range missiles, although President Reagan said last week the U.S. would consider "any fair proposals that are made."

During a visit to Bonn, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei

Gromyko made clear that Moscow considered the zero option an attempt to use the Geneva talks to force the Kremlin into unilateral disarmament.

Yuri Andropov, the new Soviet leader, added a fresh twist to the arms debate in December by offering to cut the Kremlin's medium-range arsenal to the 162-rocket level represented by British and French nuclear forces.

This was quickly dismissed in the West, with both France and Britain saying they had no intention of seeing their national nuclear forces drawn into the Geneva talks.

Earlier this month, Mr. Andropov spoke of scrapping some Soviet missiles already deployed rather than just moving them beyond the Ural Mountains.

Peking denies territorial claims from Soviet Union

PEKING (R) — China said Sunday it had no territorial claims on the Soviet Union and accused the Soviet press of wantonly distorting the Chinese stand on their long-running border dispute.

An official magazine commentary rejected a Soviet charge that China was reviving old claims on Soviet territory and using the issue to block progress towards better bilateral relations.

The commentary, in the fortnightly Shijie Zhishi (World Affairs), said the Chinese government's stand on the border issue had not changed.

"It has solemnly declared on many occasions that China has no territorial claims whatsoever on the Soviet Union nor does it demand the return of its territories ceded to Tsarist Russia under a series of unequal treaties."

Peking and Moscow opened talks late last year on ways of improving bilateral relations, which have been frigid since the Communist giants split over

ideology two decades ago. A second round of discussions, at vice-foreign minister level, is due to be held in March.

The latest Chinese commentary was in response to an article in the Soviet review New Times. It alleged that China was stepping up circulation of articles and maps laying claim to disputed border territories, and including hostile accusations that the Soviet Union had seized them.

The article suggested that Peking was trying to keep the territory question alive in order to wreck moves towards rapprochement at any time the Chinese leaders chose.

Shijie Zhishi said New Times had deliberately linked Chinese historical accounts of the Tsarist seizure of Chinese land in the last century with current efforts to improve Sino-Soviet ties "by way of launching wanton slanderous attacks on China's principled stand on these matters."

MI-5 reportedly on trail of Soviet spy

LONDON (R) — The British secret service has reopened inquiries into the case of spy Anthony Blunt and may be on the trail of another Soviet spy, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported.

The newspaper said a former agent of MI-5, the British counter-intelligence agency, was under suspicion for his role in the Blunt affair.

A spokeswoman at the prime minister's office declined to comment on the report.

Blunt, an art historian who ran Queen Elizabeth's art collection, confessed in 1964 in return for immunity from prosecution that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

But his treason remained secret until 1979, when he was publicly named as the "fourth man" in a major Soviet network at the heart of the British intelligence services during World War II and in the two succeeding decades.

The Sunday Telegraph said the secret service only recently became suspicious of the man now under investigation, who is in his sixties. His service record and the whole file on Anthony Blunt, including the way he was given immunity, were being closely examined, the paper said.

Blunt, who was stripped of a knighthood by the queen after his

spy role became known, recruited spies Donald MacLean, Guy Burgess and Kim Philby.

Burgess, second secretary at the British embassy in Washington, and MacLean, acting head of the Foreign Office American Department, defected to the Soviet Union in 1951.

Philby, a master spy at MI-5, followed them in 1963.

Another member of the network emerged in 1981 when former film company executive Leo Long confessed that he had also been recruited by Blunt to pass secrets to Moscow during World War II.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Masked men attacked Turkish lorry drivers

ANKARA (R) — Fifteen masked men attacked Turkish lorry drivers inside Iraq near the border with Turkey, shooting dead one man and kidnapping another, a Turkish official said Sunday. The deputy governor of the border province of Mardin, Mehmet Kiran, said the kidnapped man had not yet been found and his office was in constant touch with Iraqi officials investigating the incident. The semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. He said the attack took place on Thursday night between the towns of Dubuk and Zaho.

Dog traverses Russia in search of master

MOSCOW (R) — A dog called Vesna wandered more than 1,800 kilometres across Russia in a trek lasting nearly four years to find her master, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. It said that Vesna, a German shepherd dog, had been left behind with friends by her owner, Vyacheslav Stupovets, when he moved from the Ural town of Kuybyshev to Muzyr in Byelorussia. The dog broke her chain and ran away in April 1979 and began a trek which took her the width of European Russia. Mr. Stupovets said he was walking home one night in Muzyr when he saw a "skinny, mangy dog" which was standing and staring at him with sad eyes. The dog followed him to his flat and it was only there that he recognised her as his missing pet.

U.S. may lift arms ban on Argentina

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is seriously considering lifting its ban on arms sales to Argentina while maintaining a similar embargo against Chile, an Argentine newspaper said. The embargoes were imposed separately in the 1970s because of alleged human rights abuses in both countries.

Cosmonauts have very ordinary dreams

MOSCOW (R) — Cosmonauts orbiting the earth do not enjoy the luxury of heavenly dreams and experience only very down-to-earth visions during their sleep, TASS news agency reported. It quoted Anatoly Berezhov, who spent a record 211 days in space last year, as saying that on board the orbiting station Salyut-7 and back on earth afterwards he had dreamed only of mundane day-to-day things. His partner, Valentin Lebedev, said the only odd dream he had experienced while in orbit involved a vision of him returning home to his family for the night and failing to get back to the space station on time. TASS said Soviet psychologists had established that nearly all cosmonauts dream in black and white. It said this was because they were scientific people — only artists and romantics dreamed in colour.

2 Iranian clerics reported killed

LONDON (R) — Kurdish guerrillas killed a clergyman, Mullah Aziz Jangali, last Wednesday near Iran's north western town of Salmas, Tehran radio said Sunday. The Iranian left-wing opposition Mujahedin organisation said Sunday a second clergyman was killed in a clash with "resistance units" in the northern province of Gilan.

10 Filipino security men, 4 rebels die

MANILA (R) — Ten members of the Philippines' security forces and four Communist rebels were killed in guerrilla attacks on Friday, military reports said Sunday. A military report quoted by the official Philippines news agency said six soldiers died in an attack on their headquarters in Kagway in the southern province of Surigao del Sur and two others sent as reinforcements were killed in an ambush. In Manila the constabulary headquarters said four Communist rebels and two policemen were killed during an ambush in Kahadianan village in the central province of Negros Occidental. At least four people were wounded.